

Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

Norwich, CT

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

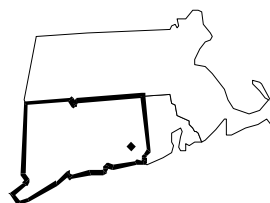
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace), to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, a cleanup revolving loan fund program (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Norwich to receive supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. Norwich (population 37,319) is located approximately 15 miles north of New London and 40 miles southeast of Hartford, at the head of the Thames River. Located within one of the oldest settled areas in the United States, Norwich has suffered high unemployment and poverty rates in recent years due to the departure of textile and other major manufacturing industries during the 1960s and 1970s. Nearly 12 percent of the population lives in poverty. To reduce poverty within distressed neighborhoods, the State of Connecticut designated Norwich as a targeted investment community and an urban enterprise zone.

This area of Connecticut was once one of the nation's leading firearms manufacturing centers and home to stove, lock, paper, and textile manufacturers serviced by the Norwich-Worcester Railroad. By 1987, however, manufacturing jobs in the area had dwindled to only 17 percent of the area's total employment. Many former factories have been torn down or now sit abandoned in the midst of residential neighborhoods. Several of these properties have suspected contamination. The Pilot seeks to restore

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Norwich, Connecticut

Date of Award: April 2001

Amount: \$150,000

Profile: The Pilot plan to focus on conducting environmental assessments on former historic mill sites and abandoned brownfields properties within the Norwich Enterprise Zone.

Contacts:

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(617) 918-1389

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflid/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

these major, abandoned industrial properties to productive use, many of which are located within Norwich's Urban Enterprise Zone.

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Pilot will use EPA's supplemental assistance to continue to eliminate or minimize the uncertainty related to environmental and liability issues surrounding brownfields sites located in the Norwich Enterprise Zone. The Pilot will identify these issues and develop a strategy for cleanup and redevelopment at selected sites in three target areas—the Falls Avenue properties, the area between Chestnut and Franklin Streets, and the Shipping Street/Terminal Way area. These areas are home to historic mill structures or former industrial sites that have high redevelopment potential and could be catalysts for additional development in the city.

The Pilot plans to:

- Develop a brownfields inventory and database focusing on three property clusters that fall within the Norwich Enterprise Zone;
- Select three sites for Phase I environmental site assessments based on priority sites identified in the inventory;
- Work with community groups to conduct outreach activities in the impacted communities; and
- Perform Phase II and Phase III environmental assessments at one selected site.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.